

What's Up at Sha'ar Zahav

Music in the Mishkan

SUNDAY, MAY 3, 4:00 PM

Music in the Mishkan, Sha'ar Zahav's chamber music concert series, celebrates its 10th Anniversary. Join us for "If the Schumann Fits...", the final of three performances, with Randall Weiss on violin, Natalia Vershilova on viola, Victoria Ehrlich on cello, and Marilyn Thompson on piano. They will perform String Trio No. 4 in C Minor (Ludwig van Beethoven), Nocturnes (Ernest Bloch), and Piano Quartet (Robert Schumann). Tickets are \$15 member, \$20 general public. Advanced purchases encouraged. Call 415-861-6932 to charge.

Young, Jewish, and Left—Havdalah, Film, and Panel Discussion

SATURDAY, MAY 9, 8:30 PM

Join other progressively minded young Jews, such as yourself, for a screening of *Young, Jewish, and Left*. The film screening will be followed by a panel discussion. The evening begins with a havdalah service. \$5 General Public/\$3 CSZ Members. Funds raised supports further events sponsored by the Welcoming Committee. For more info and to RSVP, email Marty Rawlings-Fein, martin@afeinmess.com

(continued on page 4)



By Andrew Ramer

What is black and white and read from cover to cover? The Sha'ar Zahav Pride Freedom Seder Haggadah.

"But what is a Pride Freedom Seder?" I can hear you asking. "I thought we only had seders at Passover."

Well, more and more people are holding Tu B'Shevat seders, and some Sefardi and Mizrahi communities today continue the ancient custom of holding Rosh Hashanah seders. The Pride Freedom seder is a new ritual that's been observed in LGBT Jewish communities from Vienna to New York to Sydney. Held sometime during Pride Week, Pride Seders adapt the ancient rituals of our liberation from bondage three thousand years ago to observe and celebrate the liberation of our people since the Stonewall uprising in 1969.

"So tell me about the Haggadah we use for this new observance."

Five years ago a group of Sha'ar Zahav members crafted a haggadah that would reflect our shul's values. Our pride haggadah was inspired by and incorporated material from a text created by members of Bnai Jeshurun in New York, but most of it was written by Sha'ar Zahav members—more than twenty of us, in fact. It contains prayers and blessings, poems and stories, that carry us from past to future of our journey of liberation as queer Jews.

"How else will this Seder be different from all other Seders?"

Not only will we read from a different haggadah than we use at Passover, but we'll also drink several glasses of a different ritual beverage and discuss very different sacred items (no matzah! no roasted bones!). Seated around a festive table, we will eat, drink, share a new ritual, and feast on the luscious words of our fellow Sha'ar Zahavniks. It's a perfect way to begin Pride Week.

"So, how do I get an invite?"

All are welcome, but you need to pre-register by Monday, June 15 to attend. Please bring a vegetarian dish that feeds five. We will supply drinks. We ask for a \$5 donation for members, \$10 for non-members to cover cost of materials. For more information, call Greg at 415-861-6932.

Counting Voices, Collecting Stories, Choosing to Act



"AFTER THE TEMPLE was destroyed, Shavuot became the annual celebration of the giving (that is, the acceptance) of the Torah, and the counting of the omer became a vigil. Mere release from slavery felt incomplete. If life has no transcendent value, 'freedom' by itself has no meaning." Robert Greenberg

Beginning with the second night of Pesach, we mark the period of seven weeks that links Pesach to Shavuot through the counting of the omer.

On Pesach we left Egypt. On Shavuot, we celebrate the receiving of the Torah at Mount Sinai. Shavuot is the necessary complement to Pesach, for it alerts us to what may be the essential paradox of the Haggadah: that our ancestors used

As we hear each others' stories, we must remember that the task we are given is not just "to hear" but also "to do."

their new-found freedom to choose whom they would serve, how they would serve, and the means by which they would serve.

Freedom in Jewish tradition is always yoked to responsibility. Freedom is not some abstract concept – it contains specific obligations, spelled out in detail in the stories, texts, and traditions of our people.

When the people gathered at Mount Sinai, they said, "Na'aseh v'nishma – we will do and we will hear." This is a lot like saying, "we commit to doing 'something' and that 'something' will be based on the stories we hear from members in our own community."

Today, we continue to read Torah as the oldest and most sacred story of our community. But we don't stop with Torah. Over the years, Jewish communities around the world have added the tales of their own communities to our sacred life. We read the prophets and the chronicles. We read Talmud and Mishnah, which, even though they are essentially books of law, are organized as a set of conversations and stories. We read midrash, the stories rabbis and other teachers told to draw out the values of our community.

We still need to tell—and to hear—stories about our community. That's why the rabbis tell us that the people who heard God at Sinai only wrote down a small part of what was said. The rest they could not hear or understand, because it was the story of today, rather than yesterday. It is the obligation of every generation of Jews to record our own Oral Torah, the story of our community today.

We will be doing that at Sha'ar Zahav this month with our listening campaign. As we hear each others' stories, however, we must remember that the task we are given is not just "to hear" but also "to do." *Na'aseh v'nishma*. By setting out to learn about that which weighs most upon each other's hearts at night, we make a tacit commitment to respond in some tangible way. As we listen, we will look for common concerns so that we can figure out if there is a way to have a group impact.

Let's share our stories and think together on how we can best respond. We truly can make our voices count.

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Congregation Sha'ar Zahav is a member of the Union for Reform Judaism, the World Congress of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Jews, and the San Francisco Organizing Project



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What We Value



ONCE OR TWICE a year, Jeffrey Miller's family underwrites a Scholar-in-Residence (SIR) weekend to honor Jeffrey's memory, to help us learn and grow, and to encourage the larger community to come to Sha'ar Zahav. This past March, Professor Chai Feldblum, a faculty member of Georgetown University Law School and founder of The Moral Values Project, did just that. She not only delighted and challenged us with her wit, energy and insight, but drew many new faces into a weekend of teachings – a Friday night drash, a Shabbat luncheon discussion and a Havdalah cocktail hour and lecture.

While I cannot do full justice to the many strands of her teachings, I was cheered by her assertion that our country is going through a "tectonic shift in moral values" such that many honor the love between two people, regardless of their gender, as "morally good." I certainly feel that moral goodness in my own life. There are still many, however, who do not share these moral values. So we were enjoined to engage those who believe, for religious or other reasons, that such love is sinful in a discussion around moral values. (And I am very proud that our rabbi and many SFOP members had already begun this critical work.)

I was also struck by both the audaciousness and obviousness of asserting that "moral values" are not owned by the radical right. That indeed we as LGBT and progressive Jews have placed "moral values" at the core of who we are and what we have stood for throughout the ages. Of course, the words we use to express our core beliefs are often different – words like *tzedek* and *tikkun olam*. But, I support Professor Feldblum's conviction that we need to reclaim "moral values" just as many have reclaimed "queer" – to make it our own and to place it in a larger context of social and Jewish values (Professor Feldblum's remarks will be available at The Moral Values Project website: <http://www.law.georgetown.edu/moralvalue-project/>.)

Moral values were also at the heart of our Leadership Advance last November. Rabbi Samuel Joseph, a professor at

Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati, taught us that people and organizations live out their values on three different levels – through artifacts (what we see), espoused values (what is written) and a third and often unconscious or not clearly articulated layer of underlying value assumptions. According to Rabbi Joseph, change and growth happen by giving shape to these deeply embedded values. We began the journey of values clarification at the Advance. Unlike our Scholar-in-Residence weekend, however, we left with less clarity as to the values we must all pursue. The list was long; the discussions incomplete. But the interest in "moral values" remained powerful.

In the coming weeks, our Local Organizing Committee of the San Francisco Organizing Project (SFOP) will be facilitating another Listening Campaign. This will be an opportunity to listen to each other and discover ways in which our individual needs, values and concerns connect to issues of moral values and social justice. The last series of listening meetings identified access to health care as a moral imperative. And we set in motion a way to create positive change in our city. I'm eager to hear what moral values will emerge this time and what actions we will take.

These are challenging times for all of us – and for each of us differently. Some have felt the immediate hard realities of job loss or pay cuts. Those with the past comfort of savings have seen account balances significantly diminish. We're all hit in various ways with the reality that our **financial value** is less than what we'd like it to be. One of many gifts of our Scholar-in-Residence weekend with Professor Feldblum, our time with Rabbi Joseph and the ongoing conversations of our diverse, spiritual community, is the necessity of taking time to focus on the **moral values** we can bring to the world. In this time of financial uncertainty, it becomes even more important to focus on creating a clear moral compass for ourselves and our Sha'ar Zahav community. As Pirkei Avot tells us: "It is not upon you to finish the task, nor are you free not to begin."

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What's Up at Sha'ar Zahav

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Tikkun Leil Shavuot

THURSDAY, MAY 28, 6:30 PM

CSZ's Tikkun Leil Shavuot begins with a festival Ma'ariv Service at 6:30 pm and a dairy potluck at 7:30. Teaching sessions begin at 8:30 and continue until 12:30. During each of the four 50-minute slots, we'll offer one text-based session and one session that is not so text-based. Contact the office for details.

CSZ Community Retreat, Walker Creek Ranch, Petaluma

FRIDAY-SUNDAY, JUNE 5-7

Do you want to spend a meaningful and

fabulous time with other Sha'ar Zahavniks in a gorgeous location? Then run (don't walk) to sign up for the 2009 CSZ Community retreat. Meaningful events for adults and children, singly and together. \$235 Adults, \$115 Children, \$80 for private room. Contact Rebecca Weiner for details: 415-861-6932 x302, rebweiner@gmail.com

Azkarah—A Community Memorial Healing Service

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10, 6:00 PM

Join with others who are seeking comfort, hope, and healing as we remember our losses, whether recent or past, and come together in community, hope, and prayer. An informal discussion about our losses begins at 6pm. The azkarah service begins at 7pm. Led by Cantor Sharon Bernstein and Rabbi Jon Sommer, it gives us an opportunity to honor our loved ones as we also affirm life in the context of community. For more information or to have the name of a loved one read, please contact the Bay Area Jewish Healing Center at 415-750-4197 or jewishhealing@ioaging.org.

CSZ Pride Freedom Seder

SATURDAY, JUNE 20, 6:00 PM

"Why is this night different from all other nights? Tonight we gather to fulfill a new mitzvah... we are specifically celebrating our pride in being both Jewish and different." So begins the Sha'ar Zahav Pride Freedom Seder. Come experience an evening of poetry, story-telling, music and song led by Andrew Ramer and Andrea Guerra. Wine and juice provided. Please bring a vegetarian dish to share (enough for five servings). \$5 donation/members, \$10/non-members requested to cover materials. Contact the CSZ office to pre-register at 415-861-6932.

Pride Shabbat

FRIDAY, JUNE 26, 7:30 PM

As the song goes: "What have you done today to make you feel proud?" Well...you can put on your bells, boas, bangles, and beads, and "come out" for CSZ's Annual PRIDE Shabbat Celebration to kick off your LGBTQ PRIDE weekend in style. Come and celebrate Shabbat with queer liturgy and daven some Shabbat prayers to your favorite Broadway showtunes and queer anthems. This festive musical service will feature songs from our CSZ Chorus led by Reuben Zellman plus some extra fabulous surprises! Come Out and be SEEN!

SIDDUR UPDATE

Jo Ellen Green Kaiser, Project Manager

When will we have our hardbound Siddur Sha'ar Zahav? Soon!

We have now been using our "galley proofs" since last June, and despite initial plans for a quick turnaround, we been taking the time to "do it right". First, we wanted to be sure that the content of the book really reflected our community, our theology, and our practices. So we took extra time last fall, to review the entire manuscript of our "final draft" page by page, incorporating feedback from congregants, from outside readers, and from Rabbi Angel, Cantor Bernstein, and rabbinic intern Reuben Zellman.

That process completed, we then gave the manuscript to our fabulous designer, Cindy Steinberg, who put the finishing touches on the design. The book then went to professional proofreaders, the Israeli couple Robbie Strazynski and Miriam Shatsky who are fluent in both Hebrew and English and conversant in progressive liturgy. They returned the book to us, with corrections, just before Pesach. The book then went back to Cindy and to Glen Shannon, a specialist in software for Hebrew type, for final production work.

Meanwhile, the oversight committee reviewed final materials for the siddur—and yes, we are using the beautiful eggplant cover! We also are proud to report that we were able to obtain permission for all of 330 readings, song lyrics and translations in the siddur.

As you read these words, we hope the book will be on its way to the printer. Keep checking your weekly email, as we will announce a celebratory shabbaton once our new siddur arrives.

Havurah Calendar

East Bay Chavurah

FRIDAY, MAY 8, 6:00 - 9:00 PM

FRIDAY, JUNE 12, 6:00-9:00 PM

We invite your entire family and your friends (non-members warmly welcomed) to CSZ's East Bay Chavurah. Our evening begins with a vegetarian/vegan potluck as we share blessings and check in, while singing, eating, and enjoying each other's company. At around 7:30, adults (and teens) are invited to continue our

CSZ Chorus Sing with Pride Rehearsals:

MONDAYS, MAY 11 AND 25; JUNE 1, 8, 15 AND 22, 7:00-9:00 P.M.

**SHABBAT LGBT FREEDOM SERVICE: FRIDAY
NIGHT JUNE 26TH, 2009**

Calling all our members who love to sing!! The CSZ Chorus will begin its Pride

rehearsal season May 11th, 2009. Join your voice with a multicultural array of queer Jewish music—the fabulous, the funny and the beautiful. Musical background is not necessary—the only requirement to join the chorus is your commitment to being at the rehearsals and the services. The chorus will sing at CSZ's festive Shabbat Freedom service on Friday night June 26th, 2009. Please contact Rabbinical Intern Reuben Zellman to let him know that you'll be singing with us, or for more information: reuben@shaarzahav.org, or (415) 861-6932 ext. 306.

Post Oneg Social Group

FRIDAY, MAY 15, ~9:00 PM

FRIDAY, JUNE 19, ~9:00 PM

After welcoming the Sabbath at Sha'ar Zahav's Friday night services, we invite you to join CSZ's Post Oneg Group for some further Shabbat Joy at a local restaurant on the 2nd Friday of each month. All Ages, All Sexual Orientations, All Genders, All Ethnicities, All Relationship Statuses Welcome! For more information about this group you can contact Jim Acerra at jacerra@msn.com or Tony Enriquez at arnold_enriquez@hotmail.com. Please meet in the Social Hall/Oneg Room after services.

Mensch Group

PRIVATE TOUR OF THE OLD MINT

SATURDAY, MAY 2 3:00 PM

[SOLD OUT]

Preserved in its 1874 glory, the San Francisco Old Mint won't open to the public until 2012. But thanks to Richard Meyerson, we have an opportunity to tour the Old Mint and future home of the San Francisco Museum and Historical Society. Join us for a docent led tour and learn what they have in store for "the Granite Lady," and then share your thoughts over coffee afterwards. Save the date: Details to follow. Saturday, May 2nd at 3 pm. Please RSVP to Richard Meyerson at RICHARDMEYERSON@aol.com. Also, see our blurb on this page for future events!

Women's Havurah

No events planned, but contact us at purplemustard82@gmail.com if you want to get involved!

Committee Meetings

CSZ-SFOP Organizing Committee

THURSDAY, MAY 7, 7:00-8:30 PM

THURSDAY, JUNE 4, 7:00-8:30 PM

It is one of the central religious obligations in Judaism: pursue justice. Join us in relationship-building, and acting for social justice. Currently, we are beginning our third inspirational "Listening Campaign," in order to truly hear the deeply felt concerns of congregants. With so much political upheaval around us, we are compelled to turn to our community to listen... and then ACT on what we hear. All are welcome. For more information, please contact Sarita Groisser at saritag1@aol.com.

Welcoming Committee

THURSDAY, MAY 14, 7:00-9:00 PM

THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 7:00-9:00 PM

All are invited to join this vibrant, revitalized group as we work to make Sha'ar Zahav the most welcoming environment, to both new and longstanding members. Have an idea that you want to contribute? Simply want to build community amongst fantastic people? Come! Please contact Jim Acerra, jacerra@msn.com, or Marty Rawlings-Fein, marty@ftmsf.org for more details.

CSZ Ritual Committee Meeting

MAY TBD, 6:30-8:00 PM

THURSDAY, JUNE 25, 6:30-8:00 PM

We invite all CSZ members to attend meetings of the Ritual Committee. If you have great ideas about CSZ's services for Shabbat, holidays, or lifecycles, or want to

get involved, we want you to join us! You don't have to be a service leader, or have any particular Jewish background. We're looking for creative thinkers and energy to make our ritual life better and better. Our meeting begins with a Ma'ariv service.

Classes

Introduction to Judaism

17 SESSION CLASS BEGINS MAY 19TH, 2009

TAUGHT BY RABBINICAL INTERN REUBEN ZELLMAN

Whether you are brand new to Judaism or a veteran who wants to fill in your knowledge, we welcome you to explore Judaism in our diverse, inclusive community that celebrates all sexual and gender identities. The course is open to people of all faiths and backgrounds. Bring your partners and friends! This 17-session overview is an appropriate starting place for those exploring conversion or who just want to know more about Jewish life. The course will cover holidays, sacred texts, ethics, history, customs, beliefs, the lifecycle, social justice and more, in an environment that encourages your questions and perspectives. Field trips, Shabbat dinner and other experiences will be part of the course.

All Classes are 7:00-9:00 p.m. at CSZ
Trimester 1: Tuesdays May 19th-June 23rd

Trimester 2: Mondays August 10th-September 14th

Trimester 3: Mondays, October 5th-November 9th

Cost: \$126.00 for CSZ members, \$180.00 for non-members, plus cost of materials. All are encouraged to join us regardless of ability to pay.

For questions, to register, or to confidentially discuss payment, contact Reuben, reuben@shaarzahav.org, 415-861-6932 x306; or Shaun, shaun@shaarzahav.org, 415-861-6932 x304.

One Person's Junk = \$ for CSZ Donate to Community Thrift

We kindly ask that you donate your giveaways to the Community Thrift Store, 623 Valencia St. Drop off hours 10 am-5 pm at the receiving dock on Sycamore Alley (btwn 17th and 18th). Please tell them that Congregation Sha'ar Zahav is your charity of choice and we will receive a percentage of the sale of your donated items.

www.communitythrifstf.org, 415-861-4910

Spring Cleaning



AS I WRITE this, I have been hard at work cleaning out my house of *chametz* (breads and grains not eaten on Passover).

Even though I am not Orthodox, I always enjoy this ritual. Maybe it's my OCD tendencies, but in cleaning out the chametz, I always rediscover my home in a new and interesting way. It is the *kavanah* (intention) of the act, not the amount of chametz that you find that has significance.

It is with the same intention that we have been revisiting the curriculum. Last issue I wrote about our goals. This issue, I want to describe how and what we learn.

BPSM embraces project-based learning, a learning style which is defined by: student-directed learning; collaboration; an open-ended issue that is rich, real and relevant to the students' lives; a multi-disciplinary approach; real world use of technology; a long term (more than 3 weeks) time frame; and an approach that is outcomes-based, with an artifact, presentation, or action resulting from the inquiry

This project-based learning style (the how) is applied to a set of specific themes and learning goals (the what). The themes that run on a two-year cycle include:

Sacred time and Space; Justice/Tzedek; Voices of Israel/Jewish Expressions; God/Holiness/Prayer/Liturgy; Jewish Journeys; People of the Book. The learning goals include: History, Diversity, Values, Torah/Text, Israel, Life-Cycle and Year cycle. Each class focuses on an appropriate developmental aspect of these learning objectives.

Our task now is to discuss what works and what can be improved. The CEB (Children's Education Board) has held a series of initial meetings on the curriculum attended by teachers, clergy and the original cohort that were so crucial in developing this new curriculum. We are working towards

developing more concise learning objectives and developing more teacher training. We are also putting time, thought and energy into documenting the projects that have been most successful so we can revitalize our project-based learning model.

And where do you, the families of BSPM, fit in? Your feedback is crucial to this process. Expect a survey asking you for your thoughts and concerns regarding the curriculum. While you wait to receive it, mull over this question: What are the most important content areas for your child's Jewish education and why?

As I write this, my Pesach dishes have been schlepped out and I am gearing up to make my famous floaters!! I hope your Passover holiday was wonderful and that the spirit of renewal has created blessed your life.

B'Shalom,
Rebecca

FAMILY CALENDAR

Questions? Contact Educator Rebecca Weiner at rebecca@shaarzahav.org or 415-861-6932 x302.

Friday Night Live

FRIDAY, MAY 1, 6:00 - 7:00 PM

Designed for children 0 to 6 years, but all welcome as Isaac Zones and Daniel Meyer-O'Keeffe lead us on a dancing, singing, stomping, laughing Shabbat. Pizza dinner provided.

East Bay Chavurah

FRIDAY, MAY 8, 6:00 - 9:00 PM

FRIDAY, JUNE 12, 6:00 - 9:00 PM

All are welcome to share Shabbat with us. We begin with a vegetarian potluck, blessings and check in. At 7:30, adults (and teens) study Torah while younger kids have childcare.

Shabbat Ruach

FRIDAY, MAY 15, 6:00 - 7:15 PM

Come to this rocking ruach (spirit)-filled service led by former Camp Tawonga Director Deborah Newbrun and Isaac Zones. Beit Sefer students often have a role in the service. Pizza dinner provided.

Tot Shabbat

SATURDAY, MAY 16, 10:30 AM

Families with tots come together monthly for a program that includes prayer, challah baking, arts & crafts, music & movement, and storytelling. All welcome.

CSZ Community Retreat, Walker Creek Ranch, Petaluma

FRIDAY-SUNDAY, JUNE 5 - 7

Do you want to spend a meaningful, fun weekend with other Sha'ar Zahavnicks in a gorgeous location? Then sign up for the 2009 CSZ Community retreat. Events for adults and children, singly and together. \$235 Adults, \$115 Children. \$80 for private room.

BEIT SEFER DATES TO REMEMBER

MAY

- 2 No Beit Sefer
- 2 Community Havdallah
- 6 Wednesday Class
- 9 Shabbat Class-Shabbaton
- 13 Wednesday Class
- 13 Spiritual Quest Class
- 16 Last Shabbat Class
- 23 Bat Mitzvah-Emma Pines Schwartz
- 30 Bar Mitzvah-Zach Patchell

JUNE

- 5-7 Community Retreat

B'nei Mitzvah



Emma Sophie Madelaine Pines-Schwartz, whose Hebrew name is Mira Sivan, will become a Bat Mitzvah on May 23, 2009 (29 Iyar, 5769), *leyn-*

ing the first *parasha* of the Book of Numbers, *Bamidbar*.

Emma attends Montera Middle School in Oakland, where she is a seventh grader. Her favorite subject is algebra, and she aspires to someday work in the field of mathematics.

Outside of school, Emma enjoys gymnastics (including being on a competitive team for three years), music, reading (her current obsession is the *Twilight* series), and keeping in touch with friends via myriad technological communication devices, all working simultaneously. Emma loves attending overnight summer camp, including *Camp It Up!* with her family and *Camp Tawonga* with her friends.

Emma has participated in the JFCS *Team Tzadek* teen volunteer program for the past two years, performing a variety of *mitzvot* in San Francisco. She has also volunteered at the Contra Costa Food Bank and served meals at the Men's Shelter in Berkeley.

Emma's been a student at Beit Sefer Phyllis Mintzer since kindergarten and looks forward to continuing her "post-Bat Mitzvah Jewish education" through Berkeley *Midrasha* next year. She wishes to thank her Bat Mitzvah mentor, Richard Weiner, Rabbi Angel, and all the Beit Sefer teachers throughout the years for helping her prepare for her upcoming Bat Mitzvah.



Zachary Bernstein Patchell will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on May 30, 2009. Zach is a 7th grader at Brandeis Hillel Day School, where his favorite subjects are science

and social studies. Zach has played a gamut of sports, including soccer, cross country and basketball but his passion is baseball, for which he has been nicknamed "pancake" for the shape the ball takes after it makes contact with Zach's bat.

During breaks from his busy academic, sports and Bar Mitzvah schedule Zach enjoys chillin' wid his boys downtown, participating in the bustling Brandeis B'nei Mitzvah social circuit, reading about sports or adventure and listening to music. His iPod is filled with everything from hip-hop to classic rock (and maybe a few *Family Guy* and *30 Rock* episodes).

Zach is also a passionate 3rd genera-

tion Giants fan. He's disgusted that the Giants didn't sign a slugger over the off-season, but admits that the young bats do look promising... in March. The inheritor of a sharp sense of humor, Zach has tried to convince his non-Jewish relatives that a goat slaughter is part of the Bar Mitzvah ritual while assuring them that ritual circumcision for non-Jews is strictly optional.

Zach has the great good fortune to be mentored by Mark Reisbaum. In addition to their Torah and prayer study, their frequent meetings are enhanced with adventurous exploring of the City's Asian cuisines. Their conversations run from silly to serious and they ponder the deeper questions regarding humanity and spirituality – the existence of God, the role of religion in spirituality, and life after death. Zach embraces *tikkun olum* and *tdzedakah* but continues to question many traditional aspects of Judaism. Through the Bar Mitzvah process Mark has been a fabulous and dedicated steward of Zach's early explorations of spirituality.



Andréa D. Guerra Photography

B'nei Mitzvahs, Weddings, Civil Ceremonies,
and other life cycle events

You can view my images in the Oneg Room and on my web-site:

www.andreadguerra.com

Please contact me at 415.845.6800

andrea.d.guerra@gmail.com

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
9 IYYAR 4:00 pm Music in the Mishkan 6:30 pm Ma'ariv service	10 IYYAR 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service	11 IYYAR 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service	12 IYYAR 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service	13 IYYAR 6:30 pm Ma'ariv service 7:00 pm SFOP meeting	14 IYYAR 7:30 pm Shabbat Service	15 IYYAR 9:00 am Torah Study 10:15 am Shabbat Service 8:30 pm Film: Young, Jewish & Left
16 IYYAR 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service	17 IYYAR 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service 7:00 pm Chorus rehearsal	18 IYYAR 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service	19 IYYAR 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service	20 IYYAR 6:30 pm Ma'ariv service 7:00 pm Welcoming Com mt.	21 IYYAR 6:00 pm Shabbat Ruach 7:30 pm Shabbat Service Transcelebration Shabbat	22 IYYAR 9:00 am Torah Study 10:15 am Shabbat Service Final Beit Sefer 10:30 am Tot Shabbat
23 IYYAR 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service	24 IYYAR 6:30 pm Ma'ariv service 7:00 pm Annual Membership Meeting	25 IYYAR 6:30 pm Ma'ariv service 7:00 pm Intro to Judaism	26 IYYAR 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service	27 IYYAR 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service 6:45 pm Va'ad meeting	28 IYYAR 7:30 pm Shabbat Service	29 IYYAR 9:00 am Torah Study 10:00 am Emma Pines-Schwartz Bat Mitzvah 10:15 am Shabbat Service
1 SIVAN 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service	2 SIVAN 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service Memorial Day-office closed	3 SIVAN 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service 7:00 pm Intro to Judaism	4 SIVAN 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service	5 SIVAN 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service 6:30 pm-12:30 am Tikkun Leil Shavuot	6 SIVAN Shavuot - office closed 10:00 am Yizkor service 7:30 pm Shabbat Service	7 SIVAN 9:00 am Torah Study 10:15 am Shabbat Service Zachary Patchell Bar Mitzvah
8 SIVAN 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service						

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	9 SIVAN 6:30 pm Ma'ariv service 7:00 pm Chorus rehearsal	10 SIVAN 6:30 pm Ma'ariv service 7:00 pm Intro to Judaism	11 SIVAN 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service	12 SIVAN 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service 7:00 pm SFOP meeting	13 SIVAN 8:15 pm Shabbat Service Community Retreat Weekend	14 SIVAN 9:00 am Torah Study 10:15 am Shabbat Service
	16 SIVAN 6:30 pm Ma'ariv service 7:00 pm Chorus rehearsal	17 SIVAN 6:30 pm Ma'ariv service 7:00 pm Intro to Judaism	18 SIVAN 6:00 pm Azkarah discussion group 7:00 pm Azkarah service	19 SIVAN 6:30 pm Ma'ariv service 7:00 pm Welcoming Com mt.	20 SIVAN 7:30 pm Shabbat Service	21 SIVAN 9:00 am Torah Study 10:15 am Shabbat Service
15 SIVAN 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service	23 SIVAN 6:30 pm Ma'ariv service 7:00 pm Chorus rehearsal	24 SIVAN 6:30 pm Ma'ariv service 7:00 pm Intro to Judaism	25 SIVAN 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service	26 SIVAN 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service 6:45 pm Va'ad Meeting	27 SIVAN 7:30 pm Shabbat Service Installation of Va'ad	28 SIVAN 9:00 am Torah Study 10:15 am Shabbat Service 5:30 pm Pride Seder
22 SIVAN 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service	30 SIVAN 6:30 pm Ma'ariv service 7:00 pm Chorus rehearsal	1 TAMUZ 6:30 pm Ma'ariv service 7:00 pm Intro to Judaism	2 TAMUZ 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service	3 TAMUZ 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service 6:30 pm Ritual Com mt.	4 TAMUZ 7:30 pm Shabbat Service Pride Shabbat	5 TAMUZ 9:00 am Torah Study 10:15 am Shabbat Service
29 SIVAN 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service						
6 TAMUZ Pride Parade 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service	7 TAMUZ 6:30 pm Ma'ariv service	8 TAMUZ 6:30 pm Ma'ariv service				

AIDS Fund

Jonathan Funk in memory of Mike Kozlowski.

Bikkur Cholim Fund

Batya Kalis in appreciation of Allan Berenstein.

Sherie Koshover in honor of Paul Cohen's full recovery to wellness.

Richard Mikles in honor of Paul Cohen for his support to Richard as his conversion mentor.

General Fund

Allan Berenstein in memory of Isabel Fishman, Paul Nemrow, Ron Gertz, & Norma Faini-Pick.

in memory of Thelma Greenberg.

in memory of his mother, Agnes Berenstein Schwartz.

in memory of his grandfather, Max Radetsky.

Ellen Berger in memory of her loved ones on their yahrzeits.

James Carlson in memory of Richard Roginski.

in honor of Paul Cohen.

Henry Carrey in memory of Frahd Herman Postalov.

Triptta Cohen In memory of Fred Greenberg.

James Edlin & Eve Meyer in memory of Hilda L. Meyer.

in memory of Fred Greenberg.

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Henry & Beth Levine in honor and celebration of the marriage of Alex Ingersoll & Martin Tannenbaum. in loving memory of Larry Tannenbaum.

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Mark Oliver & Steve Polsky in memory of Fred Greenberg.

Jeff Piade in honor of Vera Williamson's Bat Mitzvah.

Steve Polsky & Mark Oliver in memory of Fred Greenberg.

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in memory of her mother, Ann Kohout.

Michael Tyler in memory of his grandfather, Eugene Lanter.

Steve Weiner in memory of Yetta Weiner Marshall.

Andrew & Michele Williamson in honor of Tiela Chalmers co-leading services with Vera.

Lydia & David Zinn in memory of Fred Greenberg.

High Holiday Pledges 5769

Jonathan Arnowitz & Minne Fekkes

Marianne Balin

Gina Centanni

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Julie Dorf & Jenni Olson

James Edlin & Eve Meyer

Anne Friedman

Avi Goldberg & Will Garcia

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Leslie Miessner

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Andrew & Michele Williamson with great thanks to Rabbi Angel for all her help to Vera.

Rainbow Fund 5767

Judith Wolfe

Rainbow Fund 5768

Ellen Murland & Barbara Rinkoff

Rainbow Fund 5769

Jessie Ap'neva & Nina Wouk

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Shelli M. Rawlings-Fein in memory of Shiny Hanover.

Karen Schiller

Craig Shear

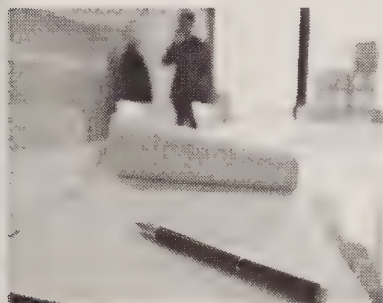
Michael Tyler & Amy Schustack in honor of Rabbi Angel's spiritual leadership.

Abi Weissman in honor of grandmother, Lillian Warren.

in memory of grandmother, Helen Weissman.

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13/14

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& **Lydia & David Zinn** In memory of Lydia's mother, Sylvia Radovich.

Friday Oneg Supplemented by **The Welcoming Committee** In honor of the New Members of Congregation Sha'ar Zahav.

20/21

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27/28

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Friday Oneg Generously Sponsored by **Ilana Strubel** In memory of her father, Dan Strubel.

March

6/7

Friday Night Live Dinner Generously Sponsored by **Josh Margulies**

20/21

Friday Oneg Generously Sponsored by **The Welcoming Committee** In honor of Bring a Friend to Shabbat.

27/28

Bimah Flowers Generously Sponsored by **Steve Elman & Tom Holt** In honor of Emma Pines-Schwartz co-leading services for the first time.

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Naches

Yashir Koach to **Claudia Bernard**, who was recently dubbed "Queen of Mediation" by *The Recorder*. Claudia is "the first stop for civil litigation in the 9th circuit - she runs the court's mediation department."

Yashir Koach to **Raena Frohlich**, who starred this spring in *The Wedding Singer*.

Yashir Koach to **Tsipora Prochovnick**, who was honored by the Jewish Sports Hall of Fame - Northern California as an All City Swimmer and who is graduating this month from Midrasha.

Yashir Koach to **Jacqui Shine**, bicycled 100 miles in California to raise money for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society!

Yashir Koach to **Ellie Cohen**, President and CEO of Point Reyes Bird Observation Conservation Science, who received the honor of *Women Taking the Lead to Save Our Planet* from the National Women's History Project this March, which was National Women's History Month.

Yashir Koach to **Dennis Ybarra**, who appeared on Fox & Friends in February and again in March promoting his book *The Trouble with Textbooks* about anti-Semitism and anti-Israelism in American public school textbooks.

Yashir Koach to **Bejo Tinsley** on her art show, held in April at the CIIS Cafe.

Yashir Koach to **Helen Cohen**, who had an April art show opening at the Mona Lease Gallery on the lovely Greenbrae Boardwalk in Marin.

New Members

We warmly welcome the following new members into our congregation:

Triptta Cohen, Nora Heins and Scott Murray, Philip Kaplan and Ilona Turner, Steve Moss, Shoshanna Spector and Ella Hereth, Thomas Zickgraf, Michel Chagall and Mim Weisburd.

Thank You

Thanks to all the volunteers who helped make Cantor Unplugged II a huge success: **Jim Acerra, Tony Enriquez, Baruch Gould, Sara Haber,**

Howie Hahn, Hershey Hirschkop, Alex Ingersoll, Kevin Johnson, Rose Katz, Nancy Levin, Nancy Meyer, Richard Meyerson, Florence Nacamulli, Harriet Rafter, Martin Rawlings-Fein, Beth Sousa, Martin Tannenbaum, Michael Tyler, and Larry Wong, as well as the CSZ staff. Thank you to **Jon Funk** and The Rabbi Julius and Pearl Funk Musical Events Fund for sponsoring the concert, to **Jeffrey Lilly** for sponsoring the flowers, and to **Sharyn Saslafsky** for co-chairing. A very special thank you to the musicians and especially to **Cantor Sharon Bernstein** who makes everything worthwhile!

Thank you to all who helped to make this winter's Jeffrey A. Miller Scholar in Residence weekend with Chai Feldblum a most successful weekend of learning!

Vanessa Eisemann (our phenomenal SIR coordinator), **Sara Haber, Beth Sousa, Alex Ingersoll, Martin Tannenbaum, Kathleen Friedlander** (caterer extraordinaire), **Ernest Friedlander, Nancy Leivn, Kevin Johnson, Laura Lowe, James Carlson, Howie Hahn, Judy Schwartz, Jo Ellen Green Kaiser,**

Robin Bowen, Andrea Guerra, Leslie Miessner, Marty Fox, Tom Lakritz, Tom Holt, Steve Elman, and Karen Schiller.

We wish to thank those who helped make this Purim one of our most festive yet!

Purim Spiel participants: **Andrea Guerra, Rebecca Weiner, Marty Rawlings-Fein, Henry Carrey, Will Garcia, Avi Goldberg, and Greg Lawrence**

Megillah Readers (Hebrew): **Vanessa Eisemann, Laura Lowe, Dana Vinicoff, Marc Lipschutz, Jeff Piade, Rose Katz, and Cantor Sharon Bernstein.**

Megillah Readers (English): **Henry Carrey, Martin Fox, Rebecca Goldfader, Ray Bernstein, Meg Keene, and Karen Schiller.**

Thank you to **Daniel Chesir** for his lending to us a beautiful megillah.

Logistics Extraordinaire: **Regina Wurst**

Let Your Voices Count!

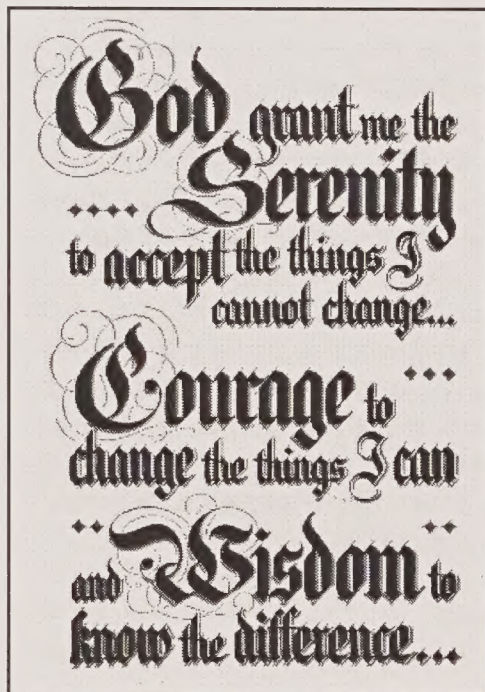
As we are counting the omer (see the Rabbi's column), we are seeking to make our own voices count—by holding another congregational listening campaign. Those of us who participated in the Elul campaign in 2007 really enjoyed sitting in a room with some fellow congregants with nothing to do but eat (of course), speak from our hearts, and listen to each other. The East Bay Chavurah and several new friendships resulted from that campaign.

This year, we hope to repeat and expand these enriching experiences and also to surface a new issue for congregational action as part of the San Francisco Organizing Project. When we truly listen to one another, it's amazing how much we have in common. And when a batch of Jews get on the same page, we can change the world!

House meetings are being scheduled in a neighborhood near you (and if you want to assist with hosting or facilitating a meeting, please let us know at vinicoff@hotmail.com). Watch for details in the weekly e-mail, the Shabbat Shalom handout, and the other usual channels of communication.

Finding Serenity

I REMEMBER only two pieces of art hanging in my parents' bedroom. One was the Serenity Prayer. And thanks to the wonders of Google, I found what I believe looks to be identical:



The other "artwork" was a picture of John F. Kennedy, whose assassination, when I was four, is my very first memory. I think of my parents' bedroom because of a Kennedy inaugural quote that comes to mind. Alex Ingersol, our shul president, has recently reflected on it:

And so, my fellow Americans: ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country.

My fellow citizens of the world: ask not what America will do for you, but what together we can do for the freedom of man.

I want to take poetic license and adapt the quote to something like: And so, my fellow Sha'ar Zahavniks, ask not only what contributions you can make to your shul, but learn what your shul can do for you.

For example: have you ever spoken with the office staff? Do you realize how talented, outgoing and warm Shaun and Greg the folks who answer the phone are? Do you recognize what a great reputation our school has? Can you believe that we've been changing lives, of both Jews and non-Jews, locally and internationally for over 30 years?

Our shul rocks. And the great thing is...there are scores of amazing people who make it happen: professional clergy, staff and volunteers work together to satisfy the needs and desires of a very diverse and colorful community.

Recently, I was at brunch with the Rabbi and the Volunteer Clergy Corps to discuss last year's same-sex weddings. No worries if you haven't heard of the

Volunteer Clergy Corps, it's a term Paul Cohen coined last year. While the Rabbi was in Denmark for her sabbatical, a group of congregants was assembled to officiate at weddings during the months prior to the vote on Prop 8.

The brunch was to thank the five of us, as well as to hear our stories. While we were talking we realized that most congregants probably aren't aware that there are CSZ members trained and eager to facilitate life cycle events. One of the things I love about CSZ is that in addition to our wonderful Rabbi and Cantor, we have knowledgeable and creative lay ritual leaders. We too are available to lead rituals grounded in tradition while adding innovations and contemporary sensibilities.

At Sha'ar Zahav we have a special partnership between our Rabbi and Cantor and lay ritual leaders. This partnership enables the individual needs and desires of congregants to best be matched with the skills and styles of volunteer and professional clergy. All together we share in the caring for the ritual health and vitality of the congregation.

The Volunteer Clergy Corps is looking forward to working with you to create personally meaningful rituals. As innovative leaders, we do a terrific job on more well-known rituals: from baby namings, to weddings, to helping people grieve during their times of loss. And, we invite collaboration in creating new rituals. Perhaps you'd like to celebrate your putting back into the grid the excess energy your home produces. Or, what about honoring the job path that you had in the past, even though the future is uncertain? Celebrations to observances to marking time or an occasion, all help enrich the fantabulousness of our Sha'ar Zahav community.

While our "sharing of the caring" doesn't usually include bowls of chicken soup, the Rabbi, Cantor and volunteer clergy want you to know that we are here to serve you. Any leader, past or present, would be lucky to have as dedicated, diverse and talented a group of leaders as we do here at Sha'ar Zahav. Simply contact the office staff to get started!

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Condolences

We extend heartfelt condolences to the following CSZ members on the death of their loved ones:

Beja Tinsley, on the death of her friend, Shelli Plotkin

Andrew Ramer, on the death of his friend, John Stowe

Nina Raff, Annie Winters, Reuben Winters Raff, and **Giovanni Raff**, on the death of Nina and Annie's nephew and Reuben and Gio's Cousin, Nathan Raff.

Jim Greenberg, on the death of his aunt, Betty Greenberg

Tova Green, on the death of her aunt, Sylvia Rothchild

Brad Post, on the death of his cousin, and founding member of CSZ, Seth Charney

Rabbi Camille Shira Angel, on the death of her uncle, Fred Greenberg

Luca Cerbu and Fox Frohlich, on the death of Luca's father, George Cerbu

Eric Johansson, on the death of his grandfather, William Morris Callman

Shoshanna Levenberg, on the death of her friend, Vogel

Member Yahrzeits

May

- 1 Liselotte Huth
- 9 Richard Inlander
- 9 Jack Jacobs
- 13 David Delroy
- 14 Thomas Yazman
- 17 Nanci Stern
- 19 Allan Altman
- 20 Robert Coffman
- 21 James Perkins
- 24 David Loeb

June

- 2 Mark B. Feldman
- 8 Robert Nehemiah Mackey
- 9 Duff Kreitzberg
- 14 Mirtha Beal
- 15 Barry Siegel
- 16 Richard Rath
- 17 Joe Zygielbaum
- 20 William E. Valentine
- 29 Rachel Mailman

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Please Be in Touch With Me

I am eager to be in touch with all members of the CSZ family whenever there are occasions of joy or sadness in your lives.

Where there is a death in the family, please call me as soon as possible.

We very much want to be there with you at a time of grief.

*Rabbi Camille
Shira Angel*

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Rabbi Camille Shira Angel

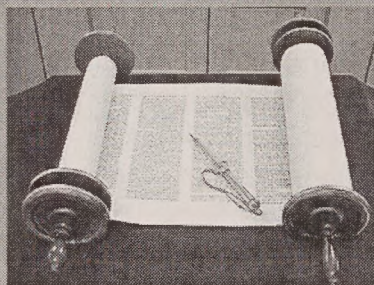


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